

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3381, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to exchange land and other assets with Big Sky Lumber Co. and other entities."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3381, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT COMPLETION ACT

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1659) to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of private mineral interests within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument mandated by the 1982 Act that established the Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1659

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Act entitled "An Act to designate the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in the State of Washington, and for other purposes", approved August 26, 1982 (96 Stat. 301; 16 U.S.C. 431 note), required the United States to acquire all land and interests in land in the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

(2) The Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire the surface interests and the mineral and geothermal interests by separate exchanges and expressed the sense of Congress that the exchanges be completed by November 24, 1982, and August 26, 1983, respectively.

(3) The surface interests exchange was consummated timely, but the exchange of all mineral and geothermal interests has not yet been completed a decade and a half after the enactment of the Act.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to facilitate and otherwise provide for the expeditious completion of the previously mandated Federal acquisition of private mineral and geothermal interests within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF MINERAL AND GEOTHERMAL INTERESTS WITHIN MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT.

Section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to designate the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in the State of Washington, and for other purposes", approved August 26, 1982 (Public Law 97-243; 96 Stat. 302; 16 U.S.C. 431 note), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(g) EXCHANGES FOR MINERAL AND GEOTHERMAL INTERESTS HELD BY CERTAIN COMPANIES.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF COMPANY.—In this subsection, the term 'company' means a company referred to in subsection (c) or its assigns or successors.

"(2) EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—Within 60 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall acquire by exchange the mineral and geothermal interests in the Monument of each company.

"(3) MONETARY CREDITS.—

"(A) ISSUANCE.—In exchange for all mineral and geothermal interests acquired by the Secretary of the Interior from each company under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall issue to each such company monetary credits with a value of \$2,100,000 that may be used for the payment of—

"(i) not more than 50 percent of the bonus or other payments made by successful bidders in any sales of mineral, oil, gas, or geothermal leases under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), or the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) in the contiguous 48 States;

"(ii) not more than 10 percent of the bonus or other payments made by successful bidders in any sales of mineral, oil, gas, or geothermal leases in Alaska under the laws specified in clause (i);

"(iii) not more than 50 percent of any royalty, rental, or advance royalty payment made to the United States to maintain any mineral, oil or gas, or geothermal lease in the contiguous 48 States issued under the laws specified in clause (i); or

"(iv) not more than 10 percent of any royalty, rental, or advance royalty payment made to the United States to maintain any mineral, oil or gas, or geothermal lease in Alaska issued under the laws specified in clause (i).

"(B) VALUE OF CREDITS.—The total credits of \$4,200,000 in value issued under subparagraph (A) are deemed to equal the fair market value of all mineral and geothermal interests to be conveyed by exchange under paragraph (2).

"(4) ACCEPTANCE OF CREDITS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall accept credits issued under paragraph (3)(A) in the same manner as cash for the payments described in such paragraph. The use of the credits shall be subject to the laws (including regulations) governing such payments, to the extent the laws are consistent with this subsection.

"(5) TREATMENT OF CREDITS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO STATES.—All amounts in the form of credits accepted by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (4) for the payments described in paragraph (3)(A) shall be considered to be money received for the purpose of section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30

U.S.C. 191) and section 20 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1019).

"(6) EXCHANGE ACCOUNT.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the completion of the exchange with a company required by paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall establish an exchange account for that company for the monetary credits issued to that company under paragraph (3). The account for a company shall be established with the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior and have an initial balance of credits equal to \$2,100,000.

"(B) USE OF CREDITS.—The credits in a company's account shall be available to the company for the purposes specified in paragraph (3)(A). The Secretary of the Interior shall adjust the balance of credits in the account to reflect credits accepted by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to paragraph (4).

"(C) TRANSFER OR SALE OF CREDITS.—

"(i) TRANSFER OR SALE AUTHORIZED.—A company may transfer or sell any credits in the company's account to another person.

"(ii) USE OF TRANSFERRED CREDITS.—Credits transferred or sold under clause (i) may be used in accordance with this subsection only by a person that is qualified to bid on, or that holds, a mineral, oil, or gas lease under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), or the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

"(iii) NOTIFICATION.—Within 30 days after the transfer or sale of any credits by a company, that company shall notify the Secretary of the Interior of the transfer or sale. The transfer or sale of any credit shall not be considered valid until the Secretary of the Interior has received the notification required under this clause.

"(D) TIME LIMIT ON USE OF CREDITS.—On the date that is 5 years after the date on which an account is created under subparagraph (A) for a company, the Secretary of the Interior shall terminate that company's account. Any credits that originated in the terminated account and have not been used as of the termination date, including any credits transferred or sold under subparagraph (C), shall become unusable.

"(7) TITLE TO INTERESTS.—On the date of the establishment of an exchange account for a company under paragraph (6)(A), title to any mineral and geothermal interests that are held by the company and are to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (2) shall transfer to the United States.

"(h) OTHER MINERAL AND GEOTHERMAL INTERESTS.—Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report—

"(1) identifying all remaining privately held mineral interests within the boundaries of the Monument referred to in section 1(a); and

"(2) setting forth a plan and a timetable by which the Secretary would propose to complete the acquisition of such interests."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH).

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1659, introduced by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. SMITH) directs the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill a 1982 statutory requirement that the Federal Government acquire private lands and minerals within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Eighteen years ago, this tragedy happened. Mr. Speaker, 16 years after creation of the monument and 15 years after the statutory deadline for the exchange, it will finally bring this issue to a close, finally.

This legislation has the bipartisan support of members of the Washington Delegation and the administration. It equitably and finally completes the exchange previously mandated by Congress when the monument was created.

I congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. SMITH), and all parties involved for their excellent work, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this very common-sense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument Completion Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by exchange, the mineral and geothermal interests of the Burlington Northern, Incorporated and the Weyerhaeuser Companies in the Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument in the State of Washington.

We appreciate the interest of the Washington delegation to see this exchange executed as soon as possible, as the matter has been unsettled for too long. Therefore, we were pleased to learn that an appraisal agreement had been reached between the federal government and the private landowners involved.

The negotiations have concluded with the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser agreeing upon a value of \$4.2 million.

The Administration has indicated that they have no objection to the substitute bill which incorporates this agreement and is being offered today.

Clearly, Burlington and Weyerhaeuser should be compensated for their mineral rights within Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument. Now that the Administration is no longer opposed to the bill because an agreed-upon value for the property has been accomplished and will be included in the bill, we see no reason to oppose the bill.

We are in strong support of this legislation. The previous problems that they had with respect to value for the property have been worked out. We urge the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH).

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs.

CHENOWETH) for yielding. She has been a great chairman. And I want to thank her staff. This has not been one of the easier bills, and I know that they did a lot of work in trying to negotiate the final principles and values in this bill.

I want to talk about what happened in 1980 for a moment so we understand what brings us to this day. Mount St. Helens erupted in what was one of nature's most beautiful events and also most devastating. It caused a 250-mile-per-hour avalanche and high winds that destroyed over 150 square miles of forests, and it sent a plume of ash over to the eastern side of the State that was like nothing we have ever seen. In fact, it took quite a while to clean it up.

But, after that, it took until 1982 to establish a monument. And in that process, we decided to protect 110,000 acres around the volcano for future recreation and education and research. This monument actually preserves this area, but it also has become a living classroom.

Underneath this new beautiful park and living classroom, though, has been captured the mineral rights that were supposed to be exchanged in the original agreement in 1982 so that those that owned the mineral rights got mineral rights somewhere else or some compensation.

Today, after all of this time, and this started in 1980, we are finally keeping our commitment to those that own the mineral rights to make reasonable exchanges for what is their property. So I again want to thank the chairman, I want to thank the staff and all of the members of our delegation who unanimously support this legislation in bringing us to this day; a long time, but finally fairness has prevailed and we, the government, are keeping our commitment to those various landowners.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by applauding my colleague from Washington State, Mrs. SMITH, for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I also commend the hard work of Mr. YOUNG, the Chairman of the Resources Committee and Mrs. CHENOWETH, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, for their excellent work in moving this legislation forward.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1659, the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act. This legislation completes the work begun with the creation of the monument in 1982 by bringing the remaining privately owned mineral rights within the monument into federal ownership.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime resident of Washington State, I remember the awesome spectacle of Mt. St. Helens' eruption and the tragic loss of lives and property it caused. The federal government created the St. Helens National Monument to preserve the unique volcanic landscape that resulted. However, it was never the intent of Congress that the creation of this monument should result in an uncompensated loss of private property. In fact, the enacting legislation required all land and mineral rights to be acquired by exchange within one year. Fifteen years later, this statutory requirement has not been met.

Mr. Speaker, the completion of the original terms of the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is long overdue. H.R. 1659 will fulfill the commitment made by the United States in a manner which is fair to both the private landowners and the American taxpayers. This is a good bill that I urge my colleagues to support.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1659, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1659, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR BICENTENNIAL OF LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 144) to express support for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 144

Whereas the Expedition commanded by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which came to be called "The Corps of Discovery", was one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all American history;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson gave Lewis and Clark the mission to "explore the Missouri River & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce";

Whereas the Expedition, in response to President Jefferson's directive, greatly advanced our geographical knowledge of the continent and prepared the way for the extension of the American fur trade with American Indian tribes throughout the area;

Whereas President Jefferson directed the explorers to take note of and carefully record the natural resources of the newly acquired territory known as Louisiana, as well as diligently report on the native inhabitants of the land;

Whereas Lewis and Clark and their companions began their historic journey to explore the uncharted wilderness west of the Mississippi River at Wood River, Illinois, on May 14, 1804, and followed the Missouri River westward from its mouth on the Mississippi to its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains;